

Ministry  
of the  
Environment

Office of the Minister

135 St. Clair Ave. West  
12th Floor  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5  
Tel: (416) 314-6790  
Fax: (416) 314-6748

Ministère  
de  
l'Environnement

Bureau du ministre

135, avenue St. Clair ouest  
12<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5  
Tél: (416) 314-6790  
Télé: (416) 314-6748



Senator Debbie Stabenow  
Washington D.C.  
20510-2204

August 18, 2006

Dear Senator Stabenow:

I am writing further to our recent conversation and am looking forward to working with you to secure the commitment of municipalities to phase out municipal solid waste (MSW) shipments from the Province of Ontario to the State of Michigan.

The Ontario government has continually said that no municipality should think sending its waste to Michigan is a reliable, long term solution. I am committed to giving these municipalities the tools they need to identify and implement alternative solutions. We're encouraged by the work each municipality is doing, and my ministry will continue to support each municipality as it develops its alternative solutions.

I believe that we now have an opportunity to work together on a mutually advantageous resolution of this issue, consistent with our long-standing relationship characterized by respect and mutually beneficial economic and cultural exchanges.

As you know, Ontario is not responsible for collecting and disposing of MSW; this is the responsibility of municipalities that have in turn contracted out responsibility to waste disposal companies. However, I am committed to working with these municipalities over the next few weeks to ensure their commitment that every effort will be made to terminate MSW shipments as soon as is possible.

I have already started to reach out to these municipalities and am pleased to advise you that their response to our initiative has been positive. I have asked my staff to work hard at achieving reductions and to work with your staff in an open and transparent manner so that we reach agreement on reasonable and achievable reductions over an agreed phase out period.

We have already made great progress so far and I agree that it is absolutely critical that we work hard to resolve this matter. I look forward to working with you over the next



several weeks to resolve this issue, and to address further issues of mutual interest with similar success.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hon. Laurel C. Broten".

Hon. Laurel C. Broten